critical digest

139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY
EL 5-6894 T. M. Kraus

CD

Apr 17. 1957 Vol IX No 21 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest- 10th yr-$25 a year

This Week

Actors' wages came under discussion. Equity at a special meeting agreed to seek a minimum salary increase from $85 to $110 inNY and from $120 to $160 on road. While 40 Broadway producers unanimously passed a resolution proposing a wage increase geared to the rise in the government's cost of living index. The League of NY Theatre's termed Equity's demand unprecedented. Present contract between Equity and League expires May 31.

Plays

Auntie Mame closed for week per star's contract... The Potting Shed moves to Golden April 22, Uncle Willie closing April 20... Dore Schary writing a play about FDR... Third week added to run of City Center's South Pacfic... Richard Bissell's "Say, Darling" to be turned into musical by Jule Styne... Rodgers and Hammerstein slate Cinderella for spring... Frank Loesser and Moss Hart considering covverting B. J. Chute's "Greenwillow" into musical... The Young Strangers comedy to be directed in fall by Elmer Rice.

Players

William Woodson and Glenn Cannon joined Moon for the Misbegotten... Pat O'Brien to return to NY stage in fall in A Casual Miracle to be staged by Alan Schneider... Paul Muni missed one performance of Inherit the Wind, Michael Constantine subbed... Ned Sparks died at age 73.

Special Events

Pulitzer Prize for drama to be announced May 6.

Calendar

Wayside-Barbizon - Plaza 4/17. New romantic melodrama by John Duff Stradley, staged by author with Diana Herbert and Herbert Voland... Liberace-Palace 4/23. All Star Variety Show includes Mitzi Green, Goofers, Step Brothers. Opens at matinee. ...It's An Ill Wind- Royal 62 E 4. Dona Davis presents Albert Bannister drama, directed by author with Paul Potter... Gilbert & Sullivan Repertory- Shakespearewrights- 287 W 87. American Savoyards open with two week run of The Mikado.

Summer Playhouses

Jack Cassidy to star in number of plays and musicals at Bucks County Playhouse, Pa... Show Boat to return for second season at Jones Beach, LI... No Aquashow will be presented this summer at Flushing Meadows Park due to excess noise from airplanes and autos... Lake Shore Play - house, Buffalo, NY, destroyed by fire... Sea Cliff, NY, Playhouse to be rebuilt next summer... Condensed version of Shaw's Back to Methuselah to be presented at Westport, Conn this summer and then sent on tour by Theatre Guild.

Shakespeare Festivals

Jacqueline Brookes to star as Desdemona in Othello at Stratford, Conn opening June 22... Plays presented at East River Park Amphitheatre this summer also will be viewed in other city boros. Manhattan season opens June 27 with Romeo and Juliet.

Theatre TV Notes

"Tony" awards of Am. Theatre Wing to be seen on CBS TV Apr 21 at 11 15 PM.

Shinbone Alley-Broadway 4/13- 2 Pro- News and Mirror- and 5 con votes recorded on musical version of Don Marquis' "archy and mehitabel" tales prsented by Peter Lawrence. Most cheered Eartha Kitt and Eddie Bracken, but dissenters feared either musical version was impossible idea to begin with or sparks of freshness did not last out the evening. Music by George Kleinsinger fared better critically than book by Joe Darlton and Mel Brooks. Dances staged by Rod Alexander were approved by most. Times and Herald Tribune aisle sitters agreed that animal fantasy is not ideal theatre material. Good deal of stage work is subtle, agile and imaginative, but it never comes alive, concludes Atkinson, Times. Final result is singularly ineffecual and monotonous sums Watts, Post. Several brilliant bits emerge, but music and continuity are lacking, regrets McClain, Journal American. Rave notices for show and especially for Eartha Kitt filed by Chapman, News and Coleman, Mirror. Excellent cast, complete score of 22 songs, dances, sets, costumes all shared plaudits. Surefire Kitt hitt added Mirror critic. Journal American informal first night audience survey counted 5 pro votes and 1 con vote among those asked.

Hotel Paradiso - Miller 4/11. 7 pros filed for Bert Lahr, director Peter Glenville, cast and script by George Feydeau and Maurice Desvalieries--and in that order. Adaption by Glenville of 1886 French farce presented by Myers-Fleischmann-Bowden-Barr & Bullock was largely successful because of antics of Bert Lahr and cast which included John Emery, Angela Lansbury and Vera Pearce. Costumes and sets by Osbert Lancaster were also credited with aiding. Differences of opinion were noted on script, which several thought showed its age. Enormously amusing in a vein of sheer theatre giving Lahr his fattest part since his great days on the musical stage, summed Atkinson, Times. Critic thought bedlam quieted in third act , but billed this as a minor quibble. Kerr, Herald Tribune, didn't think much of paper-mache script but enjoyed the methodical madness. Chapman, News, thought show was one of funniest comedies since the silent movies. He especially enjoyed Miss Pearce. Though Watts, Post, thought fun started slowly, but really gets going in the second act. An animated comic strip, furiously funny and illuminated by a primitive radiance, agreed Donnelley, World Telegram & Sun. McClain, Journal American, thought second act dull, but also enjoyed Lahr in the whackies' scrimmage in several seasons.

Merry Widow- City Center 4/10. 5 pros and 2 cons- Herald Tribune , World Telegram & Sun- filed on NYC Center Light Opera Company revival of classic starring Marta Eggerth, Jan Kiepura and Melville Cooper. Pro side praised music and fine dancing, though several noted that lyrics were unintelligible in spots. Donnelley, WT&S, disqualified himself by stating that he really isn't much of a Merry Widow man anway, while Kerr, Herald Tribune, wished City Center would have skipped proceedings and spent time rehearsing for next show instead. Atkinson, Times, praised production noting that since City Center has genuine taste in music, it has given revival an affectionate and knowing performance. Chapman, News, among others could not understand the words (in English), but didn't care much, he did enjoy the music, the dancing, and the fine sets and costumes. Sole rave notice came from Coleman, Mirror, who found show still merry, mischievous and melodious. He hinted production's run should be extended.

Apollo of Bellac and Virtuous Island-Carnegie Playhouse 4/9 . 4 pros- Times, Mirror, Post and Journal American and 2 cons- Herald Tribune and Womens' Wear listed for twin bill by Giraudoux presented by Shull-LEarson-Eisen with Martyn Green the leading player in both playlets. Times and Post both thought Apollo o. Bellac was more entertaining than other part of bill, while Mirror and Journal American aisle-men enjoyed both parts of program. Apollo is all grace, wit, fluency and improvisation cheered Times reviewer, crediting director Sherwood Arthur with making performances neat and magical. Virtuous Island is perfunctory and the acting pedestrian, Times man noted. Though Beckley, Herald Tribune, found plays sophisticated, he thought things were a bit strong on conversation, philosphy and phrases instead of playmaking. Dash, Womens Wear, panned both plays as pedestrian and dully acted.

Salvage - Actors Playhouse 4/9. 2 Cons-Times and Post-filed on new melodrama by John Seven and Clifford Kraus presented by Cavallaro Productions. Feeble and sometimes maudlin inquiry, conventional theatre spread thinly over 3 acts, summed Calta, Times.

London Theatre

Plays

Hide and Seek to be presented in London in August... Zuleika title role portrayed by Mildred Maine who replaced Diane Cilento. Musical pleased critics... Camino Real left British critics unimpressed... The Floods Came by Brian McCormac will be presented in Sept with Bryan Forbes.

London Theatre TV

The Cocktail Party presented on BBC with Ralph Michael, John Robinson and Eileen Peel... High Button Shoes presented on ITV with Alfred Marks, Maggie Fitzgibbon... S. N. Behrman's The Second Man presented on BBC with Jeremy Hawk and Helen Horton... BBC to present scene from Sailor Beware direct from Strand Theatre.

British Books

New twelfth edition of John Parker's "Who's Who in the Theatre" published by Pitman... "The Theatre At War" by Basil Dean (Harrap $5) rated as both interesting and amusing by Variety.

London Calendar

The Entertainer-Royal Court-Apr 10 ...King John-Stratford-Apr 16... Plaisirs de Paris-Prince of Wales-Apr 20... Tea and Sympathy-Comedy-Apr 25... Sophie Tucker-Dominion Apr 29.

British Views

US theatres are ghostly and US theatregoers unpuncual, complained John Neville, of Old Vic troupe after his return to London. US theatres are too big and depressing, he said. Conditions in most of them, particularly in NY, were horibble.

For Stage Struck Only

* This weekly NYC newsletter digests--Complete theatre news(page 1), reviews of all openings (page 2), comments by critics (page 6.)

* Plus NYC critics suggestions on theatre books, records. (page 7.)

* Plus Off Broadway and Full Summer Theatre coverage (page 7). London (page 3.)

* Plus complete business & critical data on all current shows(page 4 & 5.)

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CRITICAL DIGEST---139 E 47, NYC.

Apr 17,1957-PLAYGOERS GUIDE chart of CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47,NYC---EL 5-6894

This weekly chart of CRITICAL DIGEST, the weekly NYC theatre newsletter, presents up-to-date data on current business and critical reception of all current Broadway and Off-Broadway shows. Subscribers to CRITICAL DIGEST may write or phone for any other specific data or for late reviews.

"C"-Critics- figures refer to percentage of PRO reviews filed by NYC daily drama critics. PRO means show was recommended as entertaining and/or stimulating, not if critic predicted if show would run or not.

"B"--Business-figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales of past week and preceding weeks. "%%B-figures" refer to past week's attendance. "Cap." figure refers to capacity of house. Figures that follow are gross estimates by VARIETY for past week and preceding weeks. All figures are given in thousands of dollars. Thus "Cap $64--$54 $50 $60"--means that capacity of house is $64,000, last week's gross sales $54,000, precending week $50,000, two weeks previous $60,000, etc.

AUNTIE MAME Broadhurst $5.75	238 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- mostly for R.Russell, 0% minus her 100% B- Cap $43--$43 $43 $43 $43 $43 $43 $43
BELLS ARE RINGING Shubert $8.05	230 W 44 CI 6-5990	80% C- 2 Con show-Times, WT &S,100% for Judy 100% B-Cap-$58--$58--$55 $55 $55 $55 $55 $55
BRIGADOON Adelphi $5.50	152 W 54 JU 6-3787	100% C- Unanimous praise for revival Moved from City Center April 9.
DIARY A FRANK Ambassador $5.75	229 W 49 CO 5-1855	100% C- Unanimous praise Pulitizer prizer 50% B- Cap $35--$17 $20 $20 $18 $17 $13 $15
DAMN YANKEE 46th St $8.05	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	100% C- Unanimous praise for cast & musical 55% B- Cap $50--$29 $30 $33 $33 $33 $34 $41 $34
HAPPIEST MILLION. Lyceum $5.75	150 W 45 JU 2-3897	60% C- 3 Cons- Trib, Post, J. Am. 80% B- Cap $26--$18 $20 $21 $20 $21 $21 $25 $23
HAPPY HUNTING Majestic $8.05	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	100% C-for Merman, 10% C-Mir, sole pro show 85% B- Cap $70--$59 $ 68 $70 $70 $70 $70 $70
HOLE IN HEAD Plymouth $6.25	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	40% C- 3 Pro-Times, Post, J. Am. 85% B- Cap $37--$31 $34 $31 $32 $31
HOLIDAY LOVERS Longacre $5.75	250 W 48 CI 6-5639	20% C- 2 Pro- Post, J. Am. 55% B- Cap $29--$16 $21 $20 $21 $20 $18 $23
HOTEL PARADISO Miller $6.90	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	100% C- Unanimous for Bert Lahr, mild script.
INHERIT WIND National $5.75	208 W 41 PE 6-8220	90% C- Funke, Times, sole con voter 60% B- Cap $30--$19 $25 $25 $23 $23 $23 $21 $27
LIL ABNER St James. $8.05	235 W 44 LA 4-4664	60% C- 3 Cons- Trib, J.Am, WT & S. 100% B- Cap $58--$58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58
LONG DAYS Hayes $6.90	230 W 46 CI 6-6380	100% C- Raves for O'Neill play and players 90% B- Cap $30--$26 $27 $27 $24 $27 $29 $30 $30
MAJOR BARBARA Morosco $6.90	245 W 45 CI 6-6230	70% C- 2 Con- Times, Tribune 60% B- Cap $37--$20 $23 $20 $21 $23 $24 $31 $28
MIDDLE NIGHT ANTA $5.75	250 W 52 CI 6-8870	20% C- 2 Pro Play-Mir, J.Am--100% C Robinson 75% B- Cap $40--$22 $24 $23 $25 $23 $33 $26 $27
MOST HAPPY FELLA Imperial $7.50	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	90% C- 1 Con- Herald Tribune 70% B- Cap $57--$41 $47 $44 $44 $38 $48 $57 $48
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05	1655 Bway PL 7-7064	100% C- Unanimous praise for music, cast, etc. 100% B- Cap $68--$68 $68 $68 $68 $68 $68 $68 $68
NO TIME SGTS Alvin $5.75	249 W 52 CI 5-5226	100% C- Unanimous praise for soldier nomedy 75 B %- Cap $38--$24 $27 $26 $24 $24 $26 $26
ORPHEUS DESCEND. Beck $5.75	302 W 45 CI 6-6363	40% C- 3 Pro-Post, J. Am, Mir-Rest mild on script 75% B- Cap $41--$26 $31
POTTING SHED Bijou $5.25	209 W 45 JU 6-5442	100% C- Unanimous praise for play & cast 85% B- Cap $20--$17 $17 $17 $18 $18 $18 $17 $17 $17
SEPARATE TABLES Music Box $5.75	239 W 45 CI 6-4636	100% C- Unanimous praise for Eng. twin- bill 80% B- Cap $31-- $23 $25 $26 $25 $25 $26 $27 $28
TUNNEL OF LOVE Royale $5.75	250 W 45 CI 6-8870	30% C- 2 Pro- Herald Tribune, News. 95% B- Cap $34-- $33 $32 $31 $33 $33 $32 $32 $34
VISIT S.PLANET Booth $5.75	231 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- Mostly for Ritchard-Mayehoff antics 100% B- Cap $27--$27 $27 $27$27 $27 $27 $27
UNCLE WILLIE Golden $5.75	252 W 45 CI-6-6740	100% C- Skulnik, 0% Minus hm. 50% B_ Cap$24--$11 $12 $12 $12 $13 $15 $19 $14 $15
WALTZ OF TOR. Coronet $5.75	259 W 49 CI 6-8870	90% C- 1 Con- World Telegram & Sun 70% B- Cap $35--$23 %26 $26 $17 $27 $26 $27 $27
ZIEGFELD FOLLIES W.Garden $8.05	1634 Bway CI 5-4878	60% C-4 Pro Lillie only-News, Mir, Post, J. Am. 85% B- Cap $63--$53 $55 $54 $48 $48

"RATINGS OF NYC CRITICS"

1956-57 season ratings of NYC drama critics on current Broadway shows by Critical Digest. "%%CD" figures are percentages of pro votes in comparison to con votes by critics on current Broadway shows. Variety 1955-56 and 1954-55 season figures are percentages of favor able reviews filed by critic for entire season.

26 shows	CD %%	Pros	Cons	Variety 1955-56	1954-55
Atkinson, Times	70%	15	9	.490	.607
Kerr, H. Trib	60%	16	10	.394	.354
Chapman, News	80%	21	5	.527	.580
Coleman, Mirror	90%	23	3	.454	.566
Watts, Post	85%	22	4	.541	.426
McClain, J. Am.	85%	22	4	.535	.532
Donnelly, WT &S (Hawkins 1955)	70%	15	9	.306	.549

" OFF BROADWAY "

Apollo of Bellac Carn. Play $3.90	56 & Bway CI 6-6630	4 Pro-Times, Mir, Post, J. Am. 2 Con- H. Trib. Women Wear
BOX WATERCOLORS Bway Chapel	56 & Bway CI 7-0387	1 Pro- Women Wear 2 Con- Times, Variety- Sundays Only 5 PM
ICEMAN COMETH Circle $3.60	5 Sher. Sq. OR 5-9437	6 Pro-Times, Trib, Mir, J. Am, WT &S, Post
IN KING CHARLES Downtown $3.45	85 E 4 OR 3-4412	6 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, WT &S, Mir, Variety
LAND BEYOND RIV. G. Mews	141 W 13 CH 2-9831	4 Pro-Times, Post, Women Wear, Variety
PURPLE DUST Cherry Lane $3.85	31 Commerce CH 2-4468	4 Pro-Times, H. Trib, Post, Women Wear 2 Con- News, J. American
SALVAGE Actor Play. $3.45	100-7th Av S. OR 5-1036	2 Con- Times, Post
TAKE GIANT STEP Jan Hus $3.45	351E 74 LY 6-8947	5 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, Women Wear, Variety 1 Con- J. American
3 SYNGE PLAYS T. East $2.80	211 E 60 TE 8-8930	5 Pro-Times, Post, Mir, J. Am, WT & S 2 Con- Tribune, Variety
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.85	121 Chris. WA 4-8782	3 Pros- Times, Tribune, Post
VOLPONE Rooftop $3.60	111 E. Houston GR 7-8320	4 Pro-Times, Mir, WT & S, Women Wear 4 Con- Tribune, Post, News, Variety
TROJAN TRILOGY T. Marquee $3.50	111 E 59 PL 3-2576	Trojan Women--2 Pro- J. Am, Post 4 Con- Times, Trib, Mir, WT &S Agamemnon- 1 pro- Post 1 Con- Variety Electra- 1 pro- Mirror

" THEATRE CALENDAR "

Oscar Wilde- 41st St- 4/16
Wayside- Barb. Plaza 4/17
Liberace- Palace 4/20

It's An Ill Wind- Royal 4/23
Gilbert & Sullivan- Shakespear 4/23
South Pacific 4/24
First Gentleman-Beck 4/25
Livin' the Life- Phoenix 4/27
Foolin' OUrselves- 4/?

Moon for Misbegotten-Bijou 5/2
Run, Thief Run- Chanin 5/2
Greatest Man Alive- 5/8
New Girl in Town- 46th St- 5/9

Pajama Game- 5/15
Career- 5/?
Simply Heaven 5/?

Kaleidoscope-Provincetown 6/4
Central Park Musicals-6/8

Othello-Stratford, Conn 6/22
Show Boat- Jones Beach 6/27
Romeo & Juliet- E. River. 6/27

Merchant of Venice-Stratford, Conn 7/10
Much Ado About Nothing-Stratford 8/?

West Side Story- ANTA 9/8
The Egghead 9/26

Romanoff and Juliet 10/15
Jamaica- 10/21
Miss Isobel 12/26

" TV THEATRE PROGRAMS "

Apr 18- CBS- Three Men on Horse with Carol Channing on Playhouse 90
Apr 22- CBS- Traveling Lady with Kim Stanley on Studio One
May 11- NBC- George M Cohan Story with Mickey Rooney

"CD VIEWS ON CURRENT SHOWS "

PROS: Damn Yankees, Diary Anne Frank, Happiest Millionaire, Hole In Head, Hotel Paradiso, Long Days Journey, Most Happy Fella, Orpheus Descending, Potting Shed, Seperate Tables, Tunnel of Love, Uncle Willie Waltz of Toreadors
Land Beyond River, 3 Irish Plays, Iceman Cometh, Purple Dust, Take Giant Step, In King Charles.

CONS: Holiday for Lovers, Middle Night, Ziegfeld Follies
Volpone

GREEN

ROOM

DEPARTMENT

PRO REVIEWERS... Today's reviewers may lack their predecessors' flair and stylish sparkle, but they do a more servicable job, approves Stanley Frank in Saturday Evening Post (April 13) article "The Seven Dictators of Broadway." Critics now tell right off the bat what their readers want to know- whether the play is worth the price of admission. The old boys, captivated by their rhetoric, often overlooked that detail.

COLUMN TIPS... Strike of Broadway producers against new Equity contract possible June 1, whispers Farrell, World-Telegram & Sun... Lou Nova leaving Happiest Millionaire because he is tired of Walter Pidgeon's criticisms, reports Wilson, Post... Lerner & Loewe nixed $2 million deal to turn My Fair Lady into TV spectacular for Standard Oil's 50th birthday, notes Winchell, Mirror.

O'NEILL BOOK LIST.... Forthcoming biographies on Eugene O'Neill being readied by Agnes Boulton Kaufman for Doubleday and Arthur and Barbara Gelb for Harpers, lists McCord, Herald Tribune. Louis Sheaffer and Bill Glover also preparing books on author. Max Wylie is said to be at work on a novel based on O'Neill.

DRAMA MAIL BAG... Drama critics are "wowsers", defines Times reader who discovered word means " a killjoy, a monstrous gloom spreader , a man who tries to find out what the people next door are laughing at so he can put a stop to it."... City Center should be invited to suggest plan for summer musicals in Central Park, urges a C. D. subscriber.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Since Broadway has been ignoring the classics the past few seasons, we must be grateful to the dedicated who give them to us off Broadway, applauds Coleman, Mirror. Even though they are sometimes not up to doing them justice, they are establishing a foundation for the future... Six shows with "Happy" in title have been hits in past ten years and only one with word a flop(Happy as Larry) notes McClain, Journal American.

SECOND GUESSES... Repetition made the out-and-out ballet a ripe subject for parody, and the kidding helped speed its demise, concludes Kerr, Herald Tribune, praising again the Agnes de Mille ballets in Brigadoon... When it comes to first rate creative imagin nation and the ability to carry it off with skill, freshness and style, My Fair Lady and Brigadoon clearly outdistance the other pleasant contenders, points out Watts, Post... Nine and a half-actors, or half the present number of nineteen, would be plenty for Tennessee Williams to tell his Orpheus Descending, believes Chapman, News.

INTERVIEW HI-LITES... Cliff Robertson, Orpheus Descending, had to add two more years to his Columbia Pictures contract and agree not to do another play for two years, he told Peper, World Telegram & Sun. But he thinks it was worth it to get into the current NY show. The cast sent him notes denying the stories that they resented his presence... What kind of a person she is, why she changes , or what the title means, are questions Maureen Stapleton, Orpheus Descending, couldn't answer for Herridge, Post. She plays her roles brillantly, but instinctively.

OFF BROADWAY

Run, Thief, Run by NY News reporter James P. Davis will be presented by the author May 2 at Chanin Auditorium, 122 E 42nd. 155 of his fellow workers have invested in the production which will feature Len Doyle.

Exiles closed... Utopia, Limited production of American Savoyards closed, but group will re-open at Shakespearewrights, 264 W 87 April 23 with a Gilbert & Sullivan repertory. Starting with The Mikado, Pinafore and Pirates of Penzance... House of Breath will be repeated at Circle in Square for limited run on Mon. eves and Sat and Sun. matinees... It's An Ill Wind a new play by Albert Bannister will be presented April 23 at Royal Playhouse, 62 E 4... Macbeth reading in modern dress, but with 150 light and sound cues, presented by Lambs Club with Ian Keith for 3 performances.

Color Scheme, new play by James Eaton, presented by Sophisticated Productions at Elks Auditorium 15 W 126 April 13 ... Magic Carpet to be presented by Everyman Theatre May 27 at Jan Hus, 351 E 74. .. Career by James Lee to be presented by Preston-Olsen at off-Broadway house in May with Charles Aidman and Norma Crane.

The Honorable Macbeth to be presented in May by Leo Shull... Rex O"Malley replaced Neil Fitzgerald, 3 Synge Plays. Ed Balin and Paul Mazursky to direct Kaleidoscope revue June 4 at Provincetown, with Maryanna Elliott designing costumes, Lin Emery the sets... Me Candido, recently presented at Greenwich Mews, acquired for film production by Frank Kassler.

A Surprise Party all star performance to be presented at Phoenix April 28 to start fund drive for next season for Theatre Incorporated, newly reorganized to run Phoenix in future.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS

"The Classical Theatre of China" by A. C. Scott (Macmillan $6.75) was rated as both an invaluable handbook and a fine library item by Rodo, Variety. Book deals with acting techniques, costume, music, symbolism and dramatic literature of China's traditional stage.

THEATRE TV COMMENTS

Victoria Regina with Claire Bloom in the title role on NBC Montgomery show was more a series of scenes than a play, agreed Shanley, Times, and Tuck, Post. Despite this Times reviewer okayed it as a commendable TV study of a fascinating period of history. Latter reviewer thought show only victory for make-up man.

Yeoman of the Guard, Gilbert & Sullivan presented on NBC Hallmark with Celeste Holm and Alfred Drake was cheered by Times and Post viewers as a melodic treat.

THEATRE OUT OF TOWN

Matchmaker, Desk Set and No Time for Sergeants in Chicago... My Fair Lady in Detroit... Cat on a Hot Tin Roof in Los Angeles.... Damn Yankees in Montreal... Hatful of Rain in Philadelphia... Apple Cart in Toronto.... Fanny in Washington

" PROS & CONS BY TMK "

Hotel Paradiso is a masterfully staged and acted French antique farce. In lesser hands it could be just awful, but all departments have combined to cover up the weak script. The result is a fine and funny evening of delightful theatre.

* *

Salvage is a cliche-ridden script and production. Fred Kareman exhibits comedy talent in a hopeless role that deserves a better showcase.

* *

Silence this week on the Central Park summer musical program. Robert Moses so far has not answered St. John Terrell's charges of favoritism in awarding approval for summer project to Michael Grace and Chris Anderson. Jones Beach and Flushing Meadows outdoor theatres have been rented to private producers through the years with the city and state taking a share of the profits, but without taking any of the risks of production. Such a plan should be worked with producers of forthcoming musicals in Central Park. In a case such as this, where more than one producer has expressed interest, the Park Department should be allowed to pick the best deal and producer available.

* *

Theatre-goers will be left holding the tickets if the Broadway producers actually "lock-out" the actors in the wage dispute with Equity, which a columnist has rumored. Certainly NY producers are smart enough to realize that such an action would hurt all involved.

* *

Off-Broadway prices have moved up to the $3.95 and $4.35 scale without effecting the number of productions planned and/or the qualify of the productions. Too many Off-Broadway efforts are of high school amateur quality and are not even worth the $1.20 price which used to be standard. Granted that Off-Broadway costs have multiplied, but it is too bad that the average standards of production have not multiplied in the same ratio.

* *

Equity has complained to the NY Board of Health about the backstage sanitary conditions of several of the NY and road playhouses. Theatre audiences have no union voice, but conditions in the front of some of the houses also could bear checking. A theatre patron injured himself recently on a broken lounge stairway. Playgoing is hazardous enough with the fear of physical injuries.

* *

Theatre fans have shown rare good sense in backing both The Potting Shed and Brigadoon to such an extent that both have extended planned limited runs.

* *

Closing of Aquashow after 12 year summer run at Flushing Meadows Park is definite loss to summer entertainment in NY. Vaude-water-spectacles were always in good taste, were priced right, and were the perfect way to spend a hot summer evening.

* *